

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

**South Florida
Ecosystem Restoration
Land Acquisition Strategy**

DRAFT

August 25, 2006

This strategy document is for planning purposes only, is subject to modification, and is not legally binding on any of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) members. Each Task Force member and the interest they represent retain all of their sovereign rights, authorities, and jurisdictions for implementation of the projects contained in this document.

Acceptance of the report by the Task Force does not imply that the Task Force or the individual Task Force members endorse each land acquisition project described in the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy.

Moreover, the land cost estimates contained in the body of this report are preliminary planning estimates that are not intended as, and do not reflect, fair market valuations of any individual parcel of land. Acceptance of this report, therefore, does not constitute an endorsement by any Task Force member as to any parcel or land valuation.

The reporting period for this information is July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 unless otherwise noted.

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Glossary

2002 Farm Bill: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Acceler8: Florida's commitment to provide \$1.5 billion to accelerate the design and construction of a suite of restoration projects selected for the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem.

Conservation Easement: A legal agreement between a landowner and a government agency or nonprofit organization to protect the natural resources of a property permanently or for some designated period of time. The property still belongs to the landowner, but restrictions are placed both on the current landowner and subsequent landowners.

CERP: A comprehensive plan for the water resources of central and southern Florida authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The overarching objective of this Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem while providing for the other water-related needs of the region.

CERP Master: A South Florida Water Management District quarterly summary of all CERP land acquisitions.

Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL): Florida created this land acquisition program in 1979 to acquire lands to conserve and protect unique natural areas, endangered species, unusual geologic features, wetlands, and significant archaeological and historical sites. CARL projects were funded by the CARL Trust Fund and Preservation 2000. The Florida Forever - Board of Trustees program is CARL's successor.

Fee simple acquisition: The outright purchase of all property rights.

Florida Forever: The 10-year, \$3 billion program established by the Florida Legislature to conserve environmentally sensitive land, restore waterways, and preserve important cultural and historical resources. Florida Forever replaces Preservation 2000.

Goal: Something to be achieved. Goals can be established for outcomes (results) or outputs (efforts).

“Graham Map”: The 1999 Everglades Ecosystem Land Acquisition State-Federal Cost Share Map requested by former Florida Senator Bob Graham. This map was produced by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

Lake Okeechobee Estuary Recovery: Plan to restore the ecological health of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries.

Less-than-fee simple: The acquisition of limited property rights. The right to conserve and protect resources on the property is purchased at a lesser cost to taxpayers, while keeping the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Master Implementation Sequencing Plan: Updates the sequencing and scheduling for the implementation of all CERP projects

Mitigation: An action or series of actions that offset the adverse environmental impact of a permitted activity.

Multi-Species Recovery Plan: Plan developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that contains information on the biology, ecology, status, trends, management, and recovery actions for 68 federally listed species found in South Florida, as well as the ecology and restoration needs of 23 natural communities in the region.

Multi-Year Payout Option Agreements: An agreement that allows acquisition costs to be paid out over a number of years.

Objective: A goal expressed in specific, directly quantifiable terms.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Federal or State payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable government owned lands within their boundaries.

Preservation 2000: A ten year program, initiated by the State of Florida in 1990, that raised \$300 million per year for a total of \$3 billion for environmental land acquisition.

Restudy: Colloquial for the Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study, authorized in 1992.

Regional Planning Councils: Florida planning and public policy agencies that work with public and private leadership on regional issues.

Revenue Sharing Program: A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program that authorizes payments to offset the loss of tax revenue in counties in which USFWS lands are located. These payments are funded and administered separately from other Federal revenue sharing measures such as those made under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act.

Rural Lands Stewardship Program: Florida's program to direct development in rural lands to preserve agriculture and protect the environment.

Save Our Everglades Trust Fund: A trust fund established in 2000 under provisions of Florida's Everglades Restoration Investment Act to provide a minimum of \$100 million per year to implement CERP. The Act authorized Florida to contribute \$2 billion to CERP over the next 10 years.

Save Our Rivers: This 1981 Florida program created the Water Management District Lands Trust Fund. This trust fund enables the water management districts to acquire lands necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources. Save Our Rivers projects can be jointly funded through the Water Management District Lands Trust Fund and P-2000/Florida Forever.

South Florida Ecosystem: An area consisting of the lands and waters within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District and the Multi-Species Recover Plan, including the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, the Florida Keys, and the contiguous nearshore coastal waters.

Sustainability: The state of having the needs of the present met without endangering the ability of future generations to be able to meet their own needs.

Vision: An aspiration of future conditions; in this case, the results that the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force members intend to achieve in terms of ecosystem health and quality of life for South Florida residents and visitors.

Water Resources Development Act: The federal authorizing legislation for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' water resource projects.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASR Aquifer Storage and Recovery

CARL Conservation and Recreation Lands

C&SF Project Central and Southern Florida
Flood Control Project

CERP Comprehensive Everglades Restoration
Plan

CREW Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem
Watershed

DCA Florida Department of Community Affairs

DOF Division of Forestry

DSL Division of State Lands

EAA Everglades Agricultural Area

ECP Everglades Construction Project

EEL Environmentally Endangered Lands

Farm Bill The Farm Security and Rural
Investment Act

FDACS Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

FDEP Florida Department of Environmental
Protection

FF Florida Forever

FNAI Florida Natural Areas Inventory

FRPP Farm and Ranch Land Protection Act

FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission

FY Fiscal Year

GAO Government Accountability Office
(formerly the General Accounting Office)

IRL Indian River Lagoon

LAS Land Acquisition Strategy

LATT Land Acquisition Task Team

LOER Lake Okeechobee Estuary Recovery

LOPP Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan

LWCF Land and Water Conservation Fund

MISP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan

MSRP Multi-Species Recovery Plan

NPS National Park Service

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

OGT Office of Greenways and Trails

OPE Other Project Element

P-2000 Preservation 2000

PIR Project Implementation Report

PILT Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Restudy C&SF Project Comprehensive Review
Study

SCG Science Coordination Group

SWFMD South Florida Water Management
District

SHCA Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

SOETF Save Our Everglades Trust Fund

SOR Save Our Rivers

STA Stormwater Treatment Area

Task Force South Florida Ecosystem
Restoration Task Force

USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USDOI United States Department of the Interior

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WCA Water Conservation Area

WRAC Water Resources Advisory Commission

WRDA Water Resources Development Act

WRP Wetlands Reserve Program

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Executive Summary

Land acquisition is critical to South Florida Ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals, to act as a buffer to existing natural areas, and to provide opportunities for passive and active recreational pursuits. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs, and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore natural hydrology.

The purpose of the *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy* (LAS) is to describe the land acquisition needed for ecosystem restoration projects that are either wholly federally funded or jointly funded by federal and non-federal agencies and, with its appendices, provide a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. This document updates and replaces the LAS accepted by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) in December 2005.

The LAS addresses land acquisition needed to achieve the three strategic goals for South Florida Ecosystem restoration as adopted by the Task Force:

Goal 1: Get the water right

Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect habitats and species

Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems

The LAS provides an update on how these restoration goals will be accomplished through the use of land acquisition strategies designed to ensure that only those private property rights necessary to accomplish the restoration goals will be acquired. It also measures and reports the acquisition of identified lands. The LAS presents an overall land acquisition picture for those responsible for South Florida Ecosystem restoration activities and funding. It also provides cooperating agencies with a perspective on how their current and potential land acquisition projects relate and contribute to the vision of the Task Force.

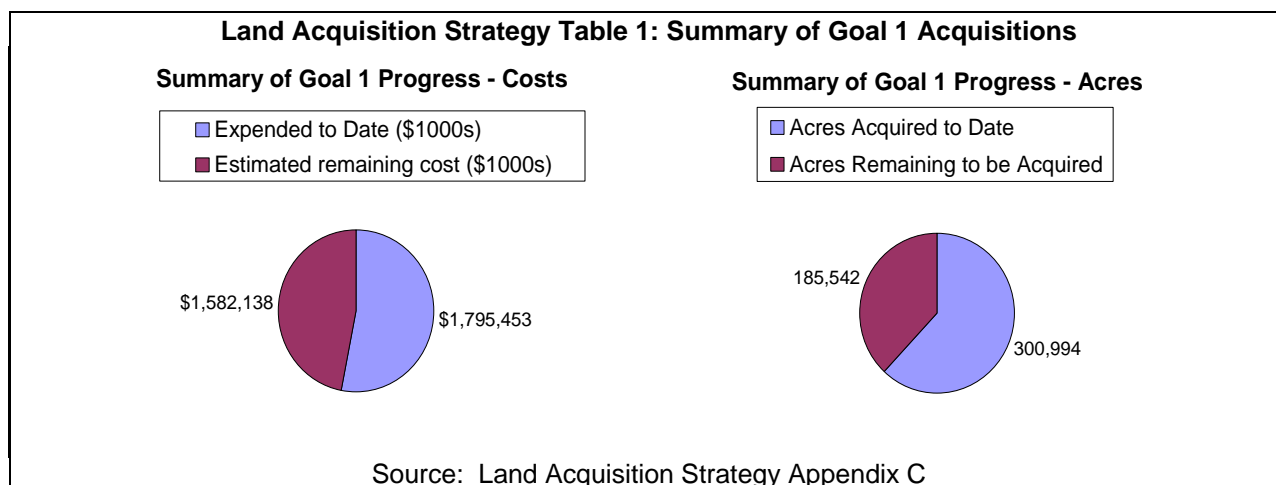
This edition of the LAS reflects data from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The Task Force's Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) will update the LAS annually to track land acquisition progress and foster cooperation among member agencies on this important component of South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Acquisition Status by Strategic Goal

The LAS summarizes projects identified as necessary for accomplishing the Task Force strategic goals. Land acquisition is also summarized for a few key restoration initiatives, including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). A summary of the estimated lands needed to accomplish the strategic goals and other South Florida Ecosystem restoration initiatives follows.

Goal 1: Get the Water Right

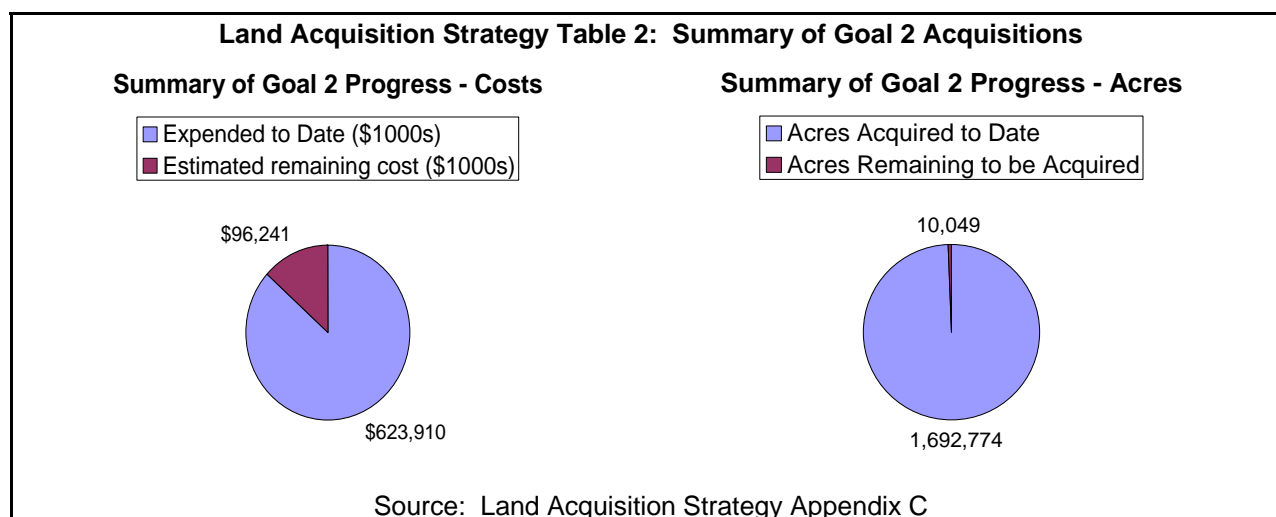
There are 47 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 1. This goal area includes projects needed to restore the quantity, quality, distribution, and timing of water within the ecosystem, as well as projects to improve water quality. Therefore, this goal area includes lands needed for the CERP, other projects modifying the current Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) water distribution system, and water quality improvements. Land acquisition estimates for the Goal 1 projects total 486,536 acres with 300,994 acres (61%) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$3,377,591,000 with an estimated \$1,582,138,000 needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.¹



¹ Cost estimates for remaining acres for the Modified Water Deliveries projects are the estimated fair market value. The Kissimmee River restoration estimates are 2006 estimates to close all contracts. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estates estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species

There are 13 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 2. Achievement of this goal includes acquisition of lands needed for CERP and other habitat improvement projects that supplement and complement the existing network of publicly held parks, preserves, and refuges.



To date, 1,702,823 acres are estimated to be needed to achieve the targets established for this goal with 1,692,774 acres acquired (99%). The total estimated cost of these lands is approximately \$720,151,000 with an estimated \$96,241,000 needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.²

Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) authorized several programs that provide financial incentives to private landowners to restore or enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat while protecting working farms or retiring marginal land from agricultural production. Two of the six programs in the 2002 Farm Bill support efforts to achieve Goal 3 land acquisition objectives through permanent conservation easements – the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Programs (FRPP). Since passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, \$20 million has been obligated to secure WRP easements on 15,370 acres and 4,265 acres have been acquired through the FRPP at a cost of \$2.7 million.

² Cost estimates for remaining acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks projects are based on estimated fair market value. The FDEP uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs for the Picayune Strand and Henderson Creek/Belle Meade projects. The cost estimate for remaining acres for the Strazzulla Wetlands Water Preserve Area Project is the Real Estate Plan estimate in the October 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

Acquisition Efforts by Initiative

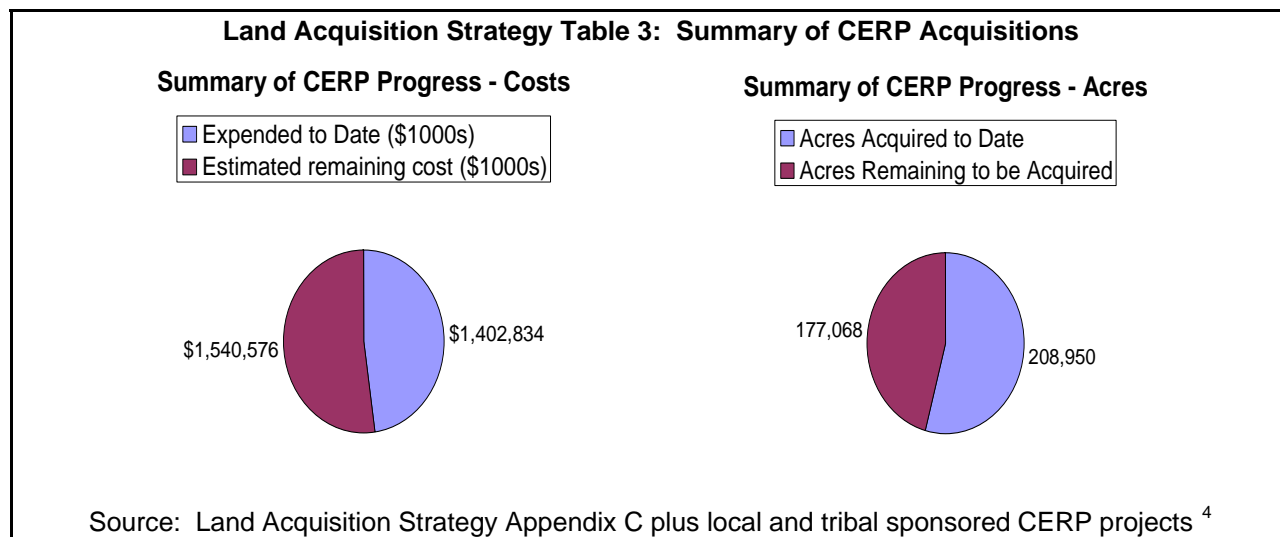
Key ecosystem restoration initiatives like CERP and *Acceler8* provide significant contributions towards achievement of the Task Force's three strategic goals. Additionally, many local governments within the region have land acquisition programs that significantly contribute to ecosystem restoration. The following is a discussion of these programs and associated land acquisition.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorized the CERP. Implementation of the CERP is one of the highest priorities for the Task Force because of its significant contribution to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

CERP land acquisition is ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) land acquisition strategy. This is a result of the state acquiring acreage at the earliest possible time and has prevented these lands needed for restoration from being developed.

Land acquisition estimates for CERP projects total 386,018 acres with 208,950 acres (54%) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$2,943,410,000 with an estimated \$1,582,576,000 needed to complete acquisition for CERP.³



³ The estimated costs for remaining acres for CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or PIR is based on the Real Estate Plan estimates which have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

⁴ The Miccosukee Water Management Plan, the Lakes Park Restoration, Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan, West Miami-Dade Reuse, South Miami-Dade Reuse and Winsberg Farms Wetland Restoration projects are local or tribal sponsored CERP projects.

Acceler8

In October 2004, Florida announced the *Acceler8* program and its commitment to provide \$1.5 billion to accelerate the design and construction of projects selected for the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem. The majority of *Acceler8* projects are components of CERP projects. Most of the lands for these projects are already in public ownership and were acquired with a combination of federal and state funds.

Land acquisition estimates for *Acceler8* projects total 126,278 acres with 122,782 acres (97%) acquired to date. The 2004 cost of these lands was \$394,440,517. Expenditures to date total \$729,938,000 with an estimated 3,496 acres needed to complete acquisition for *Acceler8*.

Local Contributions

Local governments also have made significant land acquisition contributions to the South Florida Ecosystem restoration goals:

- Goal 1: Local governments have contributed over \$65 million for CERP land acquisition.
- Goal 2: Local governments have contributed over \$412 million for the natural habitat lands identified in Appendix E.
- Goal 3: Counties hold title to over 138,000 acres of lands that contribute towards the park, recreation, and open space objective of Goal 3.

Accomplishments

Progress continues on land acquisition in support of South Florida Ecosystem restoration. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this progress is the continuation of strong partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels to achieve restoration goals. As a result of innovative partnerships and creative approaches, several major acquisitions have been accomplished during this reporting period:

Examples of fee simple acquisitions:

- 15,057 acres to complete the Kissimmee River Restoration acquisition ⁵
- 104 acres to expand the Estero Bay Preserve
- 12,080 acres for the C-44 component of the Indian River Lagoon – South project

Examples of less-than-fee simple acquisitions:

- 880 acres in the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem through a permanent conservation easement
- 321 acres of the Pennsuco wetlands through a land swap

⁵ All land acquisition contracts executed during the reporting period. The Lykes acquisition totaling approximately 11,000 acres closed in July 2006.

Examples of multi-year payout option agreements:

- 2,886 acres for the Northern Palm Beach County – Part 1 project
- 4,726 acres for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project

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Strategy Purpose and Background

Introduction

The South Florida Ecosystem is an 18,000 square mile region that includes all or part of sixteen counties and has more than six million human inhabitants. The watershed stretches from the Kissimmee River Basin-Lake Okeechobee system in the north to the coral reefs in the south. This water-dominated system encompasses a myriad of interconnected rivers, lakes, marshes, prairies, forests, and estuaries and spans the state between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1948, the ongoing efforts to drain the Everglades, protect the region from hurricanes, and make the region habitable culminated in Congressional authorization of the C&SF Project, a flood control project jointly built and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The primary project goal was to provide water and flood control for urban and agricultural lands. Other goals were to improve habitat for fish and wildlife, ensure a water supply for Everglades National Park, and provide for agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses.

The C&SF Project significantly altered the region's hydrology (quantity, timing, and distribution of water). Historically, most rainwater soaked into the region's wetlands. By the 1970s, the constructed C&SF canal system included over 1,800 miles of canals and levees and 200 water control structures. This immense system diverted an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water per day (5,217 acre-feet per day) into the ocean and gulf.

The desirability of South Florida's climate, geographic location, cultural and social setting, and thriving economic opportunities have contributed to significant population growth since the C&SF Project was built. While the historic Everglades has been reduced to about half of its original size, the current population in the region is predicted to double by the year 2050⁶. Consequently, the sustainability of the South Florida Ecosystem is in jeopardy. In response to this situation, the federal, state, regional, and local governments and two American Indian Tribes have committed to support the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

Land acquisition is critical to South Florida Ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals, act as a buffer to existing natural areas, and provide opportunities for passive and active recreational pursuits. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore the region's natural hydrology.

⁶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, April 1999

Purpose

The purpose of the LAS is to describe the land identified jointly by federal and state agencies for ecosystem restoration and, with its appendices, provide a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. The LATT updates the LAS annually for the Task Force. The LATT's Directive is found within Appendix H.

In April 2000, a General Accounting Office (GAO; now the Government Accountability Office) report recommended that the Task Force develop a land acquisition plan to coordinate member agencies' land acquisition activities. In response to this recommendation, the LAS includes:

- An assessment of the lands needed to accomplish each of the goals of restoration
- A description of the purpose for which the lands will be acquired and how they will be managed
- An estimate of the cost of these lands
- An estimate of when the lands will be needed for related restoration projects
- The agencies responsible for acquiring the lands

The LAS does not propose to acquire the amount of land necessary to restore or recreate the historic Everglades—many of those lands are irretrievably lost. The restored Everglades will be smaller and of a different configuration than the original, but will mimic the historic functions of the Everglades.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Six federal departments (twelve federal agencies), seven Florida state agencies, two American Indian Tribes, sixteen counties, scores of municipal governments, and interested groups and businesses from throughout South Florida participate in the restoration effort. Given the large geographic area, the diverse missions of these agencies, and the need to maximize the resources available for this effort, coordination among these entities is essential to the restoration effort.

The Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 established the intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force). It consists of 14 members from four sovereign entities: seven federal agency representatives at the assistant secretary or equivalent level, five state representatives, and two native American Indian representatives. Among other duties, WRDA 1996 requires the Task Force to:

- Coordinate the development of consistent strategies, policies, projects, and programs to address the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem
- Exchange information on Everglades restoration efforts
- Coordinate scientific research
- Facilitate the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental disputes

- Facilitate public participation by the public

The role of the Task Force is to facilitate the coordination of conservation and restoration efforts implemented through a combination of federal, state, local, and tribal initiatives in south Florida. The Task Force provides a forum for the participating entities to share information about their restoration projects and resolve conflicts, and report on progress. Congress and the public are particularly interested in how each individual member's efforts contribute to the larger framework of total ecosystem restoration. The Task Force *Land Acquisition Strategy* is a critical vehicle for sharing information.

Providing a forum for consensus building and issue engagement is a collaborative role, not one in which the Task Force dictates to its members. Because on-the-ground restoration is accomplished through the efforts of the individual Task Force members, they are the ones that are ultimately responsible for their particular programs, projects, and associated funding. This is an important distinction. Each member is accountable individually to its appropriate authorities and to each other for the success of the restoration. The Task Force has no overriding authority to direct its members. Instead the Task Force role of coordination complements the implementation roles of its members. The Task Force also provides opportunities to improve cohesion among public interest groups on the disparate elements and programs of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (land acquisition and conservation; water quality improvement; water infrastructure development; habitat protection)

A Working Group and Science Coordination Group (SCG) have been established to assist the Task Force in accomplishing its duties in general. Advisory groups such as the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) provide the Task Force with recommendations on specific issues.

The intergovernmental Task Force is the only forum that provides strategic coordination and a system-wide perspective to guide the separate restoration efforts being planned and implemented in south Florida. The Task Force members share a vision of a healthy South Florida Ecosystem that supports diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals, and people. Three goals have been set to achieve this vision:

- Goal 1: Get the water right
- Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats and species
- Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems

Land acquisition is an essential part of achieving these ecosystem restoration goals.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Needs

The members of the Task Force have been engaged in the protection and restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem for many years prior to the formation of the Task Force. Acquisition of land to provide water for South Florida's human population and to protect natural resources has been an ongoing priority in ecosystem restoration.

In 1947, the federal government acquired land to establish Everglades National Park with the substantial contribution of 903,931 acres from the State of Florida. This noteworthy event has been followed and enhanced by numerous programs aimed at protecting and conserving South Florida's natural lands. State and federal agencies currently manage 4.9 million acres of land important for the protection of natural habitat and species in South Florida (see Appendix D).

By the mid-1980s, a consensus was developing that water management in the region needed to be improved for natural habitats to respond. In 1989 and 1992 respectively, Congress authorized the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park and the Kissimmee River Restoration projects. These projects added new land acquisition requirements as part of the improved water management system.

In 1992, Congress authorized the C&SF Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) to take a system-wide look at the water management system and recommend changes to benefit the remaining Everglades while meeting other water related needs of the region. The Restudy is the foundation of the CERP.

WRDA 2000 authorized the CERP, perhaps the most ambitious ecological restoration program ever undertaken. CERP provides a framework for modifications and operational changes that are needed to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida Ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. The authorization of CERP added new land acquisition requirements for the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

Acquisition Strategy

The strategy for land acquisition within the South Florida Ecosystem is to pursue acquisition of lands identified as necessary for restoration in a coordinated and timely manner. These include lands needed to fulfill Task Force goals and objectives (Appendix A) and implement ecosystem restoration initiatives such as CERP and *Acceler8*. Local government initiatives also contribute to ecosystem-wide restoration. The following is a discussion of land acquisition efforts by goal and initiative to date. Further discussion regarding existing and potential partnerships and mechanisms for land acquisition may be found in the next section.

Acquisition Efforts by Strategic Goal

The Task Force's guiding document, *Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem*, identifies projects needed for ecosystem restoration. Projects with land acquisition requirements are included in the following analysis. Specific project information is located within Appendix C.

Goal 1: Get the Water Right

Land acquisition for Goal 1 includes lands needed for CERP and other authorized modifications to the C&SF System including the Kissimmee River Restoration and Headwaters Revitalization Project, the C-111 Canal Project, the Critical Projects authorized in WRDA 96, and Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. Other water quality improvement projects, such as the 100% federally funded Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1-East component of the SFWMD's Everglades Construction Project, are also needed to fulfill this goal.

There are 47 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 1. Land acquisition estimates for these projects totals 486,536 acres with 300,994 acres (61%) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$3,377,591,000 with an estimated \$1,582,138,000 needed to complete acquisition.⁷

Identification of Lands to be Acquired

The acreage estimated on the project profile sheets in Appendix C reflects the best available information as of June 30, 2006. Non-CERP project land requirements are identified through General Design Memorandums. The Restudy estimated the total lands needed for CERP based on preliminary conceptual project designs. These

⁷ Cost estimates for remaining acres for the Modified Water Deliveries projects are the estimated fair market value. The Kissimmee River restoration estimates are 2006 estimates to close all contracts. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estates estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

estimates have been updated for projects with a completed Project Implementation Report (PIR) as required by CERP and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Strategic Acquisitions

Failure to obtain parcels in a timely manner can result in construction delays and reconfiguration not just of one project, but for other related projects as well. Delays in acquiring project lands lessen the possibility that the necessary lands will be acquired and may also increase the cost of land. In May, the SFWMD Governing Board unanimously approved the purchase of the last parcels of land needed to meet the construction schedule of the Kissimmee River Restoration project. Likewise, the USACE has embarked on an aggressive land acquisition schedule to have all lands available for the Modified Waters Project by 2006. The MISP construction schedule determines the land acquisition schedule for CERP. In addition, the SFWMD has pursued a strategy of early land acquisition to secure lands for future CERP projects. Appendix F details Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 SFWMD priority land acquisitions to meet the MISP schedule. Appendix B identifies all the CERP projects with continued land acquisition needs.

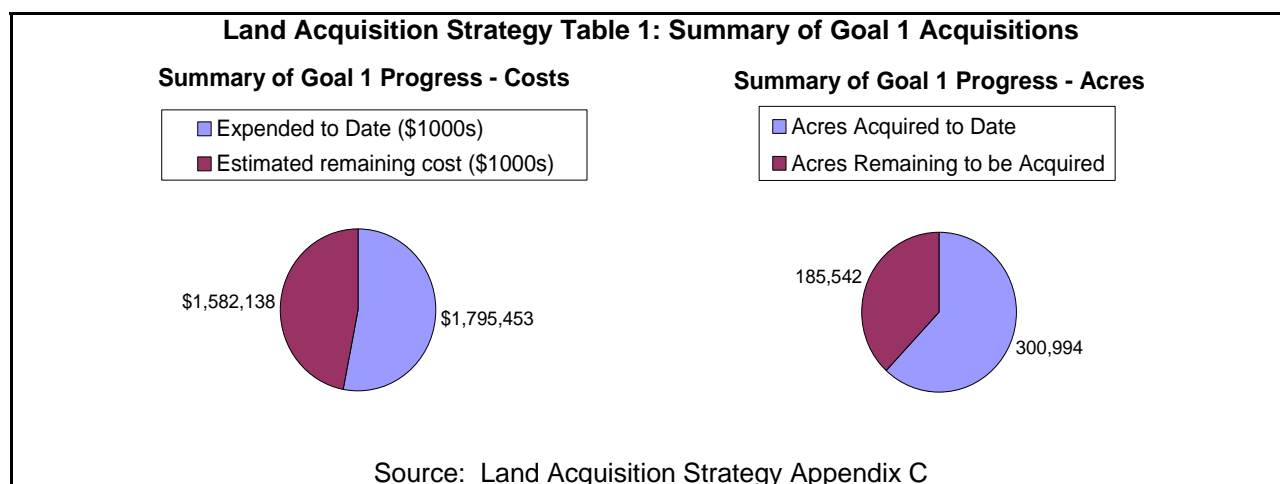
Cost Estimates of Real Estate

Real estate cost estimates for non-CERP projects are based on actual expenditures and the estimated fair market value for remaining land acquisition. For those CERP projects with either a final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

Funding Sources

These funding sources have been used to acquire Goal 1 lands:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) Land and Water Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wetlands Preserve Program
- Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) Section 390
- Florida Forever Trust Fund
- FDEP Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF)
- Broward County Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program
- Conservation Collier
- Lee County Conservation 20/20
- Martin County Lands for Healthy Rivers
- Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
- Palm Beach County Land Acquisition Program for Conservation Purposes
- St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands Program
- The Nature Conservancy



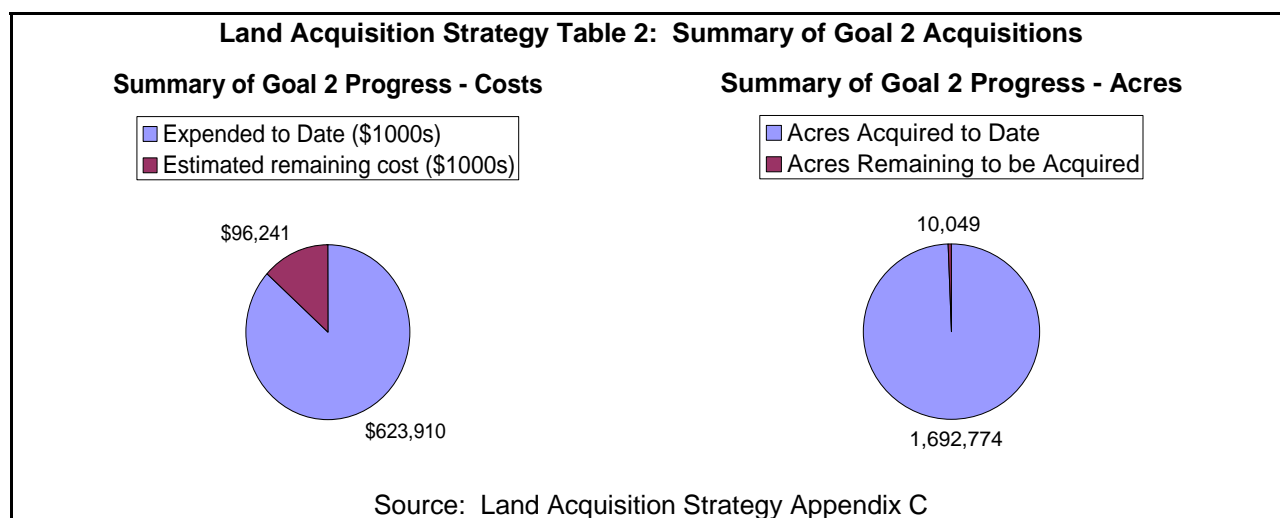
Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species

Habitat and species protection goals are met primarily through large public holdings such as parks and wildlife refuges. The LAS tracks the land acquisition needs of the three national parks/preserves, sixteen wildlife refuges, and three CERP wetland restoration projects that contribute to this goal.

There are thirteen projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 2. To date, 1,702,823 acres are estimated to be needed to achieve the targets established for this goal with 1,692,774 (99%) acres acquired. The total estimated cost of these lands is approximately \$720,151,000 with an estimated \$96,241,000 needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.⁸

The habitat and species table in Appendix D lists all the Goal 2 land acquisition projects, regardless of federal funding involvement.

⁸ Cost estimates for remaining acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks projects are based on estimated fair market value. The FDEP uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs for the Picayune Strand and Henderson Creek/Belle Meade projects. The cost estimate for remaining acres for the Strazzulla Wetlands Water Preserve Area Project is the Real estate Plan Estimate in the October 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study adjusted to October 2005 dollars.



Identification of Lands to be Acquired

Any major boundary revisions to existing units of the national park system must be established by an act of Congress. Likewise, national wildlife refuge land acquisitions must be consistent with existing Congressional authorization. Land acquisition needs for CERP wetland restoration projects are identified in the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (Southern Golden Gate Estates) PIR, the Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study (Strazzulla Wetlands), and the Henderson Creek/Belle Meade conceptual plan.

Strategic Acquisitions

Land acquisition to complete park and refuge boundaries is a multi-year process and can span decades. The goal is to acquire lands before on-site resources are destroyed.

The Picayune Strand Restoration Project is centrally located among several nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife areas in Collier County, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. The acquisition of lands for this project will protect over 2.3 million contiguous acres of wildlife habitat.

The acquisition of the Strazzulla wetlands, immediately adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, will increase the spatial extent of wetlands and will provide habitat connectivity for species that require large, unfragmented tracts of land for survival. This unique and endangered habitat contains the only remaining cypress habitat in the eastern Everglades and one of the few remaining sawgrass marshes adjacent to the coastal ridge.

Cost Estimates of Real Estate

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cost estimates for land acquisitions for national parks and national wildlife refuges are based on fair market value and appraisals that meet state and federal standards. The FDEP, as the acquisition agent for Picayune Strand and Henderson Creek/Belle Meade projects, uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs. The cost estimate for the

Strazzulla Wetlands CERP project is based on the 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study and has been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

Funding Sources

These funding sources have been used to acquire Goal 2 lands:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL)
- Save Our Rivers/Florida Forever (formerly Preservation 2000)
- City of Sanibel
- Collier County
- Monroe County
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy

Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized several USDA administered programs to provide financial incentives to private landowners to restore or enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat while protecting working farms or retiring marginal land from agricultural production. The LAS tracks the WRP and FRPP efforts to achieve Goal 3 land acquisition objectives through permanent and 30-year conservation easements. These acquisitions include lands needed for CERP Projects. Other state and local acquisitions that contribute to this goal are discussed in Appendix E.

The WRP is a voluntary program to assist landowners in restoring wetlands that have had wetlands functions reduced or eliminated by agricultural production practices. Priority is given to those lands that will maximize wildlife habitat. Permanent and 30-year conservation easements provide financial incentives for wetlands enhancement in exchange for retiring agricultural marginal lands. \$20 million has been obligated to secure WRP easement on 15,370 acres since 2002.

The FRPP provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. The USDA partners with state and local governments, tribes, and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements from landowners. The USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the conservation easement. Since passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, 4,265 acres have been acquired through the FRPP at a cost of \$2.7 million.

Identification of Lands to be Acquired

To be eligible for the WRP, land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits. This includes:

- Wetlands farmed under natural conditions
- Farmed wetlands
- Prior converted cropland

- Farmed wetland pasture
- Farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding
- Range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored
- Riparian areas which link protected wetlands
- Lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection

To qualify for the FRPP, farmland must:

- Be part of a pending offer from a state, tribe, or local farmland protection program
- Be privately owned
- Have a conservation plan for highly erodible land
- Be large enough to sustain agricultural production
- Be accessible to markets for what the land produces
- Have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services
- Have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production

Strategic Acquisitions

For the WRP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) places priority on the enrollment of those lands that will maximize wildlife values, especially related to enhancing habitat for migratory birds. The priority ranking factors for the WRP are:

- Habitat
- Location
- Hydrology
- Wildlife species
- Operation and maintenance
- Likelihood of success

All sites within the South Florida Ecosystem restoration area receive an automatic 25 points in the NRCS priority ranking to encourage enrollment and increase the WRP contribution to the habitat restoration goals of the Task Force.

There are no special South Florida enrollment incentives for the FRPP. The State Conservationist, with advice from the State Technical Committee, establishes a weighted ranking system. Priority is given to easements that protect the nation's most threatened prime, unique, and important farmland or historical and archeological sites on farm and ranch lands. In evaluation of proposals and parcels, at least 50 percent of the weight is based on the national criteria. The remaining weight is based on state criteria contained in the State FRPP plan.

Cost Estimates of Real Estate

The WRP geographic payment cap is based on the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' (IFAS) annual *Florida Land Value Study* and the appraised improved pasture land value. The South Florida Geographic Payment Cap is \$5,895 per acre for a permanent easement and \$4,421.25 per acre for a 30-year easement.

The value of a FRPP conservation easement is determined through a professional appraisal. A qualified appraiser assesses the difference between the fair market value of a property, often using comparable sales, and its restricted value under the easement.

Available Funding Sources

The State Conservationist requests funds annually to fund WRP easements. Historically, Florida's WRP funding has ranged from \$8-11 million annually. WRP applications are funded from the priority list until all funds are obligated. It is important to note that funds obligated on one year cannot be used to fund applications in a different year and all unused funds for a fiscal year must be returned to the USDA.

The FRPP is funded through the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation. The FRPP share of the conservation easement cost must not exceed 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. As part of its share of the cost of purchasing a conservation easement, a state or local government, tribe, or non-governmental organization may include a charitable donation by the landowner of up to 25 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. As a minimum, a cooperating entity must provide, in cash, 25 percent of the appraised fair market value or 50 percent of the purchase price of the conservation easement.

Acquisition Efforts by Initiative

Key ecosystem restoration initiatives like CERP and *Acceler8* provide significant contributions towards achievement of the Task Force's three strategic goals. Additionally, many local governments within the region have land acquisition programs that significantly contribute to ecosystem restoration. The following is a discussion of these programs and associated land acquisition.

CERP

WRDA 2000 authorized the CERP. Implementation of the CERP is one of the highest priorities for the Task Force because of its significant contribution to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

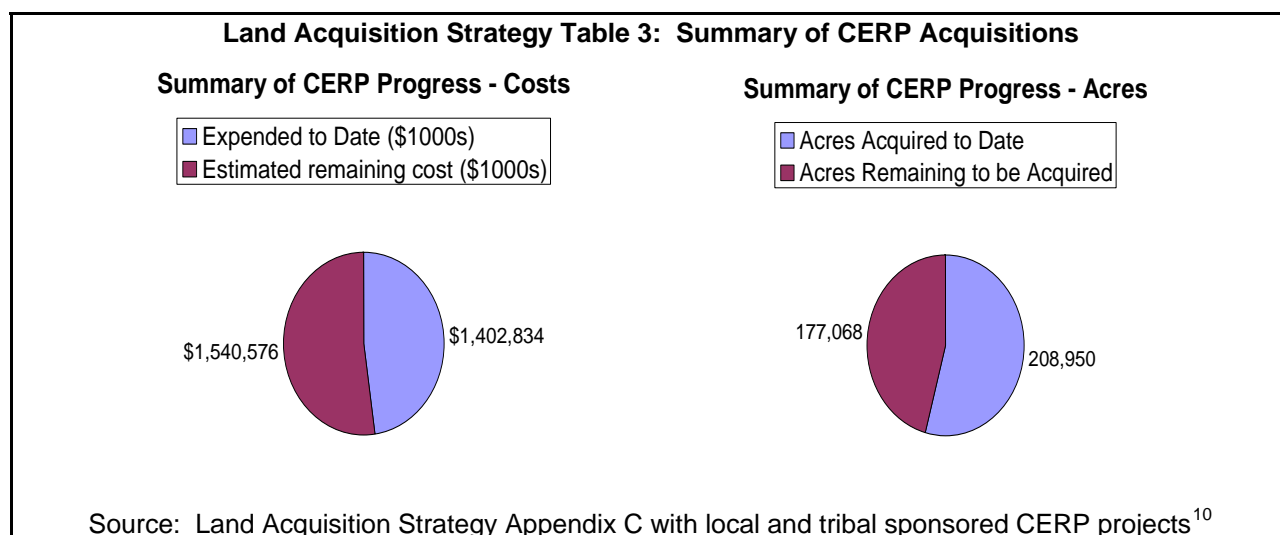
CERP land acquisition is ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 MISP land acquisition strategy. This is a result of the state acquiring acreage at the earliest possible time and has prevented these lands needed for restoration from being developed.

With the 2000 passage of the Everglades Restoration Investment Act, the SFWMD receives \$100 million per year which can be used for land acquisition needed to implement CERP. SFWMD also received additional funds through a special state appropriation during this reporting period for land acquisition for the C-111 Spreader Canal/Biscayne Bay project (\$25 million) and the Loxahatchee Slough Flowway (\$10 million).

For those projects with either a final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For those projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.

Land acquisition estimates for CERP projects totals 386,018 acres with 208,950 acres (54%) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$2,943,410,000 with an estimated \$1,582,138,000 needed to complete acquisition for CERP.⁹

⁹ The estimated costs for remaining acres for CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or PIR is based on the Real Estate Plan estimates which have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to October 2005 dollars.



Acceler8

In October 2004, the State of Florida announced the *Acceler8* program and its commitment to provide \$1.5 billion to accelerate the design and construction of projects selected for the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem. The majority of *Acceler8* projects are components of CERP projects

These accelerated projects are to be completed more than 10 years ahead of schedule:

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland – Phase 1
- C-111 Spreader Canal
- C-43 West Storage Reservoir
- C-44 Reservoir/STA
- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir – Phase 1, with Bolles and Cross Canals Improvements
- EAA STA Expansion
- Picayune Strand Restoration
- Water Preserve Areas (includes Site 1 Impoundment, C-9 Impoundment, C-11 Impoundment, Acme Basin B Discharge, and Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A/3B Seepage Management)

Most of the lands for these projects are already in public ownership and were acquired with both federal and state funds.

¹⁰ The Miccosukee Water Management Plan, the Lakes Park Restoration, Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan, West Miami-Dade Reuse, South Miami-Dade Reuse and Winsberg Farms Wetland Restoration projects are local or tribal sponsored CERP projects.

Land acquisition estimates for *Acceler8* projects total 126,278 acres with 122,782 acres (97%) acquired to date. The 2004 estimated cost of these lands was \$394,440,517. Expenditures to date total \$729,938,000 with an estimated 3,496 acres needed to complete acquisition for *Acceler8*.

Local Contributions

Local governments have also made significant land acquisition contributions to South Florida Ecosystem restoration goals:

- Goal 1: Local governments have contributed over \$65 million for CERP land acquisition.
- Goal 2: Local governments have contributed over \$412 million for the natural habitat lands identified in Appendix E.
- Goal 3: Counties hold title to over 138,000 acres of lands that contribute towards the park, recreation, and open space objective of Goal 3.

Acquisition Partnerships and Mechanisms

Over 50 funding sources that could potentially be utilized in support of South Florida Ecosystem restoration are identified in Appendix G. These include federal, state and local government programs as well as those of non-governmental organizations. Fifteen have been used to date in support of South Florida Ecosystem restoration goals and land acquisition. Many of the programs provide opportunities to match or leverage funding available through other sources for land acquisition, conservation, or restoration. Further discussion of several of these partnerships and mechanisms follows.

Federal/State/Local Acquisition Partnerships

In many ways South Florida Ecosystem restoration began with the federal/state partnership to establish Everglades National Park. Continued cooperation and coordination between federal, state, and local partners in Everglades restoration has maximized the resources available for land acquisition.

The State of Florida's strong commitment to funding acquisition of environmental lands is the foundation of these partnerships. Florida is recognized as the national leader in conservation land acquisition. The state's passage of the landmark Preservation 2000 Act established one of the most aggressive conservation and recreation land acquisition program in the United States. Florida spent \$3 billion during the ten years of Preservation 2000 (P-2000) and renewed that commitment by the passage of Florida Forever, an additional \$3 billion investment through 2010.

Park and Refuge Acquisitions

The FDEP Division of State Lands (DSL) coordinates park and refuge land acquisitions with the federal government. Seventy percent of the acres remaining to be acquired for the National Key Deer Refuge are on the state's Florida Forever acquisition list. The DSL is cooperating with the NPS on the Big Cypress National Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve Addition.

Farm Bill Partnerships

In 1996, the USDOl, FDEP, and SFMWD participated in a unique land acquisition partnership thanks to a specific congressional action. The Farm Bill of 1996 provided \$200,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior to fund or conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem. The 1996 Farm Bill funds, along with state funds, were utilized to purchase lands for CERP projects in the East Coast Buffer/Water Preserve Area, the EAA/Talisman property, and Picayune Strand Restoration (formerly known as Southern Golden Gate Estates).

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The SFWMD has received about \$171 million in land acquisition grant funds from the USDOl's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through FY 2006. These funds

have been used to acquire lands within the East Coast Buffer/Water Preserve Area, the EAA, STA-1 East, Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW), and the Frog Pond area adjacent to Everglades National Park.

CERP Partnerships

Restoration partners have acquired 54 percent of the necessary CERP lands at a cost of \$1.3 billion, of which \$259 million was provided by the federal government (USDOJ and USDA), \$965 million from the state (SFWMD and FDEP), and \$65 million by local governments.

Leveraging Limited Funds

Partners at all levels of government recognize the need to both prioritize strategic acquisitions and create additional funding capacity through more coordinated and efficient use of existing programs, particularly as the cost of land in South Florida continues to rise. Mechanisms, such as less-than-fee acquisitions and innovative partnerships, can help maximize the use of limited fiscal resources. Some examples of these mechanisms are described below.

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements involve purchasing a portion of the rights associated with the land to provide some degree of protection to natural resources on the land. There are several advantages of this approach as the land stays on the tax rolls and the private landowner maintains responsibility for managing the property while still allowing some level of continued use. Although the cost could be reduced to 25 percent of the cost of fee simple, the price depends on many factors, such as the number of rights purchased, the degree to which the landowner's use of the land is curtailed, and the development pressure on the land. The SFWMD, NRCS, and FDEP all use this tool to protect lands. Currently, conservation easements are contributing to the protection of 109,286 acres.

On-Ranch Water Management

A key component of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan (LOPP) and the Lake Okeechobee Estuary Recovery (LOER) plan involves on-ranch water management on private land. The SFWMD, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and FDEP have executed a memorandum of understanding to encourage the voluntary creation/restoration of wetlands on agricultural lands within the Lake Okeechobee and a portion of the Indian River Lagoon watersheds. The memorandum defines the responsibilities of the participating agencies and the long-term responsibilities of participating landowners.

Additionally, the World Wildlife Fund received funding for a three year NRCS pilot project to establish a market-based program for environmental service on South Florida ranch lands to implement agreements with large landowners north of Lake Okeechobee. Four pilot projects are under final design or in construction. The SFWMD, NRCS, FDEP, and FDACS are partners on this project.

Multi-year Payout Option Agreements

Another alternative to the traditional fee simple purchase contract is the multi-year payout option agreement used by the SFWMD. These agreements allow properties to be secured today and taken off of the development market. At the same time, these options provide ample due diligence review time for the SFWMD and allow purchase of property over multiple years which provides cash flow advantages and often tax advantages for the seller as well. Approximately 12,041 acres have been acquired through these agreements.

Mitigation Banks

The strategic use of mitigation banks also contributes to the environmental restoration effort in South Florida. If a proposed project will result in negative impacts to wetlands, those impacts must be mitigated by the creation or enhancement of wetlands either on-site or off-site. Mitigation can be required as a condition of a federal, state or local permit. The SFWMD has two mitigation banks, totaling 1,888 acres, where developers can buy credits to restore wetlands through this program.

Mitigation Funds

The SFWMD accepts mitigation funds from developers; currently over \$11 million is available to the District's land acquisition program for use in the CREW, Shingle Creek, and Lake Belt projects.

Rural Land Stewardship Program

In 2001, Florida created the Rural Land Stewardship Program. First designed as a pilot program, legislation in 2004 expanded the program to all counties statewide. Local governments designate stewardship areas through comprehensive plan amendments. The intent is to coordinate development within rural lands in a manner that preserves agriculture and protects the environment. Once designated, credits are allocated to individual parcels based on environmental and other values of the property. The credits are recorded as a covenant or restrictive easement in favor of the county and the FDEP, FDACS, or statewide land trust. The 23,000-acre Adams Ranch in St. Lucie County is currently under review to be preserved through this program.

Water Storage Agreements

The identification of alternative sites on public, private, and tribal lands for moving and storing excess water from Lake Okeechobee and its tributary basins to help reduce high discharge volumes to the estuaries is another component of LOER. The Lykes Bassinger Groves 15,000-acre water storage pilot is underway and the Seminole Brighton Reservation 800-acre reservoir/STA is under design.

Mitigating the Loss of Tax Revenue

Land acquisition for ecosystem restoration removes lands from the tax rolls. Both the federal and state governments have programs to offset the loss of tax revenues to counties that contain federal or state tax-exempt lands.

Division of Forestry Payment to Counties

The state Division of Forestry (DOF) makes annual payments to county school boards for state forests within their boundaries. In FY 2004-05, DOF paid \$1,597.31 to Collier County for the Okaloacoochee Slough and Picayune Strand State Forests. Hendry County received \$288.74 for the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Programs

Florida's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is limited to counties with a population of 150,000 or less with conservation lands removed from the tax rolls through the P-2000 and Florida Forever acquisition programs. Once eligibility has been established, the governmental entity receives ten consecutive annual payments for each tax loss. For FY 2005, the FDEP paid \$396,591 to school boards, counties, and other units of government in four counties on 74,199 acres. During the same period, the SFWMD made the eighth payment of \$6,786.92 in PILT to Hendry County for 22,255 acres purchased for the Okaloacoochee Slough Project.

In South Florida, the USDOJ compensates jurisdictions with tax-exempt federal lands administered by the FDEP. In FY 2005, USDOJ paid \$2,000,490 to eight counties for 1,308,584 acres of federal holdings through its PILT program.

Refuge Revenue Sharing Program

The USFWS makes annual payments to counties or other units of local government through its Refuge Revenue Sharing program. In FY 2005, the USFWS paid \$574,523 on 642,950 acres that the Service administers.

Tools to Identify Strategic Acquisitions

Several federal and state agencies participating in South Florida Ecosystem restoration have analyzed potential land acquisitions in order to protect habitat for Florida's rarest plant and animal species. Several tools have been developed to assist conservation land acquisition agents in identifying strategic land acquisitions within their area of concern. The following is a discussion of some of those tools.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Maps

The Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) has produced maps of the entire state of Florida that illustrate what lands are needed to meet desired conservation measures in the Florida Forever program. These maps are available as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data files at www.fnai.org/flforever.cfm.

Additional tools are available on the FNAI website (www.fnai.org):

- Searchable rare species tracking list
- Conservation lands map server
- Online field guides to rare species
- Invasive species GIS data

Natural Lands Report

In 2006, a subgroup of the Task Force's LATT produced the *Natural Lands Report* (NLR) in response to a request from the U.S. House of Representatives' Interior Appropriations Sub-Committee. It identifies and prioritizes the natural attributes of lands necessary to achieve natural system restoration goals for the South Florida Ecosystem for these projects:

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- C-111 Spreader Canal
- Indian River Lagoon – South
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed

The February 16, 2006 draft report with project descriptions and natural lands maps is at www.sfrestore.org/issuetteams/latt/documents/index.html.

Office of Greenways and Trails Recreational Prioritization Maps

The FDEP's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) updated the Recreational Trail Prioritization maps in 2004 and the Ecological Greenways Priorities data in 2005. These data layers represent the areas that are appropriate for establishment of a statewide greenways and trails system. These are planning areas and do not represent only existing trails and greenways. Rather they provide an overall vision of a comprehensive statewide network of greenways and trails to serve as a guide for local, state, regional, and federal entities. This data is available under Ecological/Trail Networks at www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

USFWS Multi-Species Recover Plan

The USFWS' Multi-Species Recovery Plan (MSRP) contains information on the biology, ecology, status, trends, management, and recovery actions for 68 federally listed species found in South Florida, as well as the ecology and restoration needs of 23 natural communities in the region. Acquisition-related recovery tasks are included in the MSRP implementation schedule. The final implementation schedule is expected to be noticed in the Federal Register at the end of 2006. The MSRP is available at www.fws.gov/verbeach/Programs/Recovery/vbms5.html.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Conservation Strategy

The 2006 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy encompasses all of Florida's wildlife and provides a habitat-based approach to focus actions to conserve those species.

Several habitat types are recognized for their unique importance within Florida's natural ecosystems:

- Coastal areas
- Wetlands
- Upland Pine
- Submerged aquatic vegetation
- Reefs

Major statewide conservation issues identified in the FWC Strategy include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Degradation of water resources
- Incompatible fire management
- Invasive plant and animals
- Dredging and shoreline hardening activities

The website for the FWC Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy is www.myfwc.com/wildlifelegacy/strategy.html.

Major Acquisition Accomplishments

As a result of innovative partnerships and creative approaches, several major acquisitions have been accomplished during this reporting period.

Examples of fee simple acquisitions:

- The SFWMD acquired the last 15,057 acres to complete land acquisition for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project.¹¹ This landmark project will revitalize 40 square miles of river and floodplain habitat.
- Lee County and the State of Florida purchased 104 acres to expand the buffer of natural lands to the 10,000-acre Estero Bay Preserve in Lee County.
- The SFWMD and Martin County purchased 12,080 acres for the C-44 component of the Indian River Lagoon – South project. This purchase completes the acquisition needed for the C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/STA *Acceler8* project.

Examples of less-than-fee acquisitions:

- The State of Florida purchased 880 acres in the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem through a permanent conservation easement. Stretching from the Orlando area as far south as Lake Okeechobee, the unique Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem supports wildlife that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.
- The State of Florida received 321 acres of the Pennsuco wetlands through a land swap between the state and Tarmac America, LLC, a private limestone mining company.

Examples of multi-year payout option agreements:

- A tri-party partnership purchased 2,886 acres for the Northern Palm Beach County – Part 1 CERP Project. This three year option agreement leverages funds from the SFWMD, Martin County, and Florida Communities Trust for the natural water storage component of this project.
- The SFWMD purchased 4,726 acres for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed CERP project through two year option agreements with both The Nature Conservancy for 1,655 acres and a private landowner for 3,071 acres. Some of these lands along the historic Kissimmee River support several federally listed threatened or endangered species.

¹¹ All land acquisition contracts executed during the reporting period. The Lykes acquisition totaling approximately 11,000 acres closed in July 2006.

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Appendices

Appendix A:	Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Appendix B:	Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions
Appendix C:	Project Profile and Summary Table
Appendix D:	Land Acquisition Update Map and State/Federal Cost Share Table
Appendix E:	County Land Acquisitions and Florida's Greenways and Trails Program
Appendix F:	SFWMD FY 2006-07 Land Acquisition Priorities
Appendix G:	Potential Funding Sources in Support of Restoration
Appendix H:	Land Acquisition Strategy Task Team Directive

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Appendix A: Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (2004)

GOAL 1: GET THE WATER RIGHT

Subgoal 1-A: Get the hydrology right

- Objective 1-A.1: Provide 1.8 million acre-feet of surface water storage by 2036
- Objective 1-A.2: Develop aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) systems capable of storing 1.6 billion gallons per day by 2030
- Objective 1-A.3: Modify 335 miles of impediments to flow by 2019

Subgoal 1-B: Get the water quality right

- Objective 1-B.1: Construct 91,345 acres of stormwater treatment areas by 2035
- Objective 1-B.2: Prepare locally-based plans to reduce pollutants as determined necessary by the total maximum daily loads by 2011

GOAL 2: RESTORE, PRESERVE, AND PROTECT NATURAL HABITATS & SPECIES

Subgoal 2-A: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats

- Objective 2-A.1: Complete acquisition of 5.8 million acres of land identified for habitat protection by 2015.
- Objective 2-A.2: Protect 20 percent of the coral reefs by 2010
- Objective 2-A.3: Improve habitat quality for 2.4 million acres of natural areas in South Florida

Subgoal 2-B: Control invasive exotic plants

- Objective 2-B.1: Coordinate the development of management plans for the top twenty South Florida invasive exotic plant species by 2011
- Objective 2-B.2: Achieve maintenance control of Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, Australian pine, and Old World Climbing Fern on South Florida's public conservation lands by 2020
- Objective 2-B.3: Complete an invasive exotic plant species prevention, early detection, and eradication plan by 2007

GOAL 3: FOSTER COMPATIBILITY OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

Subgoal 3-A: Use and manage land in a manner compatible with ecosystem restoration

- Objective 3-A.1: Designate or acquire an additional 480,000 acres as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System by 2009
- Objective 3-A.2: Increase participation in the Voluntary Farm Bill Conservation Programs by 230,000 acres by 2014
- Objective 3-A.3: Acquire an additional 2,500 acres of park, recreation, and open space lands by 2007
- Objective 3-A.4: Complete five brownfield rehabilitation and redevelopment projects by 2010
- Objective 3-A.5: Increase community understanding of ecosystem restoration

Subgoal 3-B: Maintain or improve flood protection in a manner compatible with ecosystem restoration

- Objective 3-B.1: Maintain or improve existing levels of flood protection

Subgoal 3-C: Provide sufficient water resources for built and natural systems

- Objective 3-C.1: Increase the water available by target of 478.5 million gallons per day by 2008
- Objective 3-C.2: Increase volumes of reuse on a regional basis
- Objective 3-C.3: Increase water made available through the SFWMD Alternative Water Supply Development Program

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Appendix B: Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions

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Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions

The Federal Projects and Joint Federal/State Projects Map

The Project Profiles in Appendix C are represented on the attached/following map. For this map, and for the LAS in general, the term “State” includes the State of Florida, the SFWMD, and participating local governments. Each of the projects on the map is labeled with a circled number or a name. Four types of projects are illustrated: CERP projects, USFWS and NPS projects, other federal acquisition projects, and joint state/federal acquisition projects.

Existing conservation lands throughout the South Florida Ecosystem (as of June 30, 2006), regardless of funding source, are shown in light gray to provide context for the federal and joint federal/state projects. Some of these lands are less-than-fee simple acquisitions.

Project data layers (CERP, USFWS or NPS, Other Federal, and Joint State/Federal Acquisition Projects) depict the full extent of the acquisition project boundaries, including any lands that have already been purchased (acquired lands are colored gray within the project boundaries). Some projects are greater than 90% complete; in many of these cases, the remaining inholdings within the project boundaries are too small to be shown on this map.

The Joint State/Federal Acquisition Projects data layer (pink cross-hatching) is composed of Florida Forever Board of Trustees projects and Save Our Rivers projects that have federal involvement.

The SFWMD provided digital data for CERP and Save Our Rivers projects with the disclaimer that any information, including but not limited to software and data, received from the SFWMD in fulfillment of a request is provided “AS IS” without warranty, including but not limited to merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For SFWMD projects, this map is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This map is not self-executing or binding on the SFWMD.

The conservation lands data layer was compiled by FNAI using data received from many different sources including federal, state, and local managing agencies and private conservation organizations.

Map Key to CERP Projects

The CERP project boundaries are general boundaries and will be refined after further analysis. The majority of the CERP projects are indicated by a circled number on the map; the rest are labeled by name. The accompanying map key to CERP projects lists all CERP projects by map label, the CERP project component name, CERP project ID number, and CERP project name.

Map Key to CERP Projects

MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
1B	Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough	01B	LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED
3	Lake Okeechobee ASR (no boundary)	03	LAKE OKEECHOBEE ASR
4	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Part 1 & C-43 Basin ASR Part 2	04	C-43 BASIN STORAGE RESERVOIR
4A	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Part 1 & C-43 Basin ASR Part 2-Acceler8	04A	C-43 RESERVOIR WEST
7A1	IRL – C-44 Reservoir	07A01	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A1	IRL – C-44 Reservoir-Acceler8	07A01	C-44 RESERVOIR & STA
7A2	IRL – C-44 West STA	07A02	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A2	IRL - C-44 West STA-Acceler8	07A02	C-44 RESERVOIR & STA
7A3	IRL – C-44 East STA	07A03	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A3	IRL – C-44 East STA – Acceler8	07A03	C-43 RESERVOIR & STA
7A4	IRL – PALMAR Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality	07A04	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B5	IRL – C23/24 North Reservoir	07B05	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B6	IRL – C23/24 South Reservoir	07B06	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B7	IRL – C23/24 STA	07B07	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B9	IRL – Allapattah Complex and Water Quality Area	07B09	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B10	IRL – Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality Area	07B10	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B13	IRL – Southfork Natural Storage & Water Quality	07B13	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7C12	IRL – C-25 Reservoir and STA	07C12	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7C14	IRL – Northfork Floodplain Restoration	07C14	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
8	Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir – Phase 1 & 2	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR-PHASE 1 & 2
8A	Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir- Phase 1 – Acceler8	08A	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A1	EAA Reservoir – L-16 Cross Canal	08A	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A1	EAA Reservoir –L-16 Cross Canal-Acceler8	08A	EVERGALDES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR-PHASE 1
8A2	EAA Reservoir – L-21 Bolles Canal	08A	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A2	ESS Reservoir –L-21 Bolles Canal – Acceler8	08A	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOR-PHASE 1
8B	EAA Compartment B- Acceler8	08B	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR- PHASE 1
8C	EAA Compartment C-Acceler8	08C	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR-PART 1
11B	Flow to NW & Central WCA 3	11B	FLOW TO NW & CENTRAL WCA 3
12	WCA 3 Decomartmentalization & Sheetflow Enhancement – Part 1 (S-351)	12	WCA DECOMP & SHEETFLOW ENHANCEMENT – PART 1
14	Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	14	LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE INTERNAL CANAL STRUCTURES
16	Modify Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan	16	MODIFY ROTENBERGER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OPERATION

MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
17A	Pal-Mar and J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Hydropattern Restoration	17A	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17C	L-8 Reservoir & ASR	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17D	Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration (no boundary)	17D	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17E	C-17 Backfilling and Treatment	17E	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17F	C-51 Backpumping and Treatment	17F	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
18A	C-51 Regional Groundwater ASR (no boundary)	18A	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 2
20	PBC Agricultural Reserve Reservoir & ASR	20	PBC AGRICULTURAL RESERVE RESERVOIR – PART 1
22	Site 1 Impoundment & Hillsboro ASR Pilot	22	HILLSBORO SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT & ASR
24	Broward County Secondary Canal System	24	BROWARD COUNTY SECONDARY CANAL SYSTEM
25 A	Lakebelt Inground Reservoir Technology Pilot	25A	LAKEBELT INGROUND RESERVOIR TECHNOLOGY PILOT
25B	North Lakebelt Storage Area	25B	NORTH LAKEBELT STORAGE AREA
26 A	Central Lakebelt Storage Area	26A	CENTRAL LAKEBELT STORAGE
27B	S-356 Structures	27B	EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT
28	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	28	BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS
28A	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands-Acceler8	28A	BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS
29	C-111 Spreader Canal	29	C-111 SPREADER CANAL
29A	C-111 Spreader Canal-Acceler8	29A	C-111 SPREADER CANAL
30	Southern Golden Gate Estates/Picayune Strand Restoration Project	30	SOUTHERN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES/ PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT
30	Southern Golden Gate Estates/ Picayune Strand Restoration Project-Acceler8	30	SOUTHERN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES/ PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT
31	Florida Keys Tidal Restoration (no boundary)	31	FLORIDA KEYS TIDAL RESTORATION
33	Caloosahatchee (C-43) River ASR Pilot	33	CALOOSAHATCHEE (C-43) RIVER ASR PILOT
36	L31N Seepage Management Pilot	36	EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT
38	Acme Basin B Discharge	38	ACME BASIN B DISCHARGE
38	Acme Basin B Discharge- Acceler8	38	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
39	Strazzulla Wetlands	39	STRAZZULLA WETLANDS
40	Site 1 impoundment & Hillsboro ASR Pilot- Acceler8	40	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
43	Bird Drive Recharge Area	43	BIRD DRIVE RECHARGE AREA
45A	3A/3B Seepage Management	45A	BROWARD COUNTY WPA
45A	3A/3B Seepage Management-Acceler8	45A	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
45B	C-11 Impoundment	45B	BROWARD COUNTY WPA

MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
45B	C-11 Impoundment – Acceler8	45B	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
45C	C-9 Impoundment	45C	BROWARD COUNTY WPA
45C	C-9 Impoundment-Acceler8	45C	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
48A	WCA 2B Flows to Central Lakebelt Storage Area	48A	WCA 2B FLOWS TO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK (ENP)
48B	L-30 Canal Upgrade	48B	WCA 2B FLOWS TO ENP
49	Dade-Broward Levee & Canal	49	WPA CONVEYANCE
90	Miccosukee Water Management Plan	90	MICCOSUKEE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
91	Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration	91	WINSBERG FARM WETLAND RESTORATION
92	Restoration of Pineland & Hardwood Hammocks in the C-111 Basin	92	RESTORATION OF PINELAND & HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS IN THE C-111 BASIN
93	Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration	93	HENDERSON CREEK/BELLE MEADE RESTORATION
94	Lakes Park Restoration	94	LAKES PARK RESTORATION
96	Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan	96	SEMINOLE TRIBE BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION WATER CONSERVATION PLAN
97	West Miami-Dade Reuse	97	WEST MIAMI-DADE REUSE
98	South Miami-Dade Reuse & Wastewater Reuse Technology	98	SOUTH MIAMI-DADE REUSE

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Appendix C: Project Profiles and Summary Table

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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Project Profiles

The project profile sheets list the following information for the projects on the map located in Appendix C:

- Project Name
- Project Name Synonym: Additional name(s) for a project used by other programs or initiatives.
- Project ID (Map Label): CERP project numbers are on the Map Key in Appendix B.
- Overlapping Project: Name of project (if any) that has an overlapping land acquisition boundary with this project. A geographic area's land cost, funding, and acreage are counted only once within the LAS.
- Primary SFER-related Objective: The goals and objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) are listed in Appendix A.
- Project Synopsis
- Project Sponsorship
- Land Acquisition Funding Type
- Land Acquisition Funding Source
- Agency Responsible for Acquiring the Land
- Land Acquisition Program
- Land Managing Agency
- Funding Partners (if applicable)
- Land Acquisition Schedule: includes the date acquisition was/will be initiated, the date acquisition will be concluded, and the date the project is needed for restoration.
- Project Acreage/Progress; includes the total size of the project, the acres acquired in the previous year, the acres acquired all years, and the acres remaining to be acquired. Acres acquired are those lands which the agency has title as of June 30, 2006 and not those encumbered under contract through a multi-year option agreement.
- Estimated Project Requirements: includes the estimated cost of the land acquisition project, the cost of land closed through June 30, 2006, the estimated cost of the remaining acres, and the cost of real estate and associated costs. Any multi-year option agreement payments are listed as future year costs (when applicable). Construction or restoration project requirements are not included in the estimate.
- Land Cost Estimation Method
- Degree of Ownership Desired
- Comments
- Hyperlink: Website of source for further information.
- Contact
- Update: Date of project profile sheet update; name and agency of person providing the updated information.

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**Appendix D: Land Acquisition Update Map and State/Federal
Cost Share Table**

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Land Acquisition Update Map and State/Federal Cost Share Table

The Land Acquisition Update Map

The Land Acquisition Update Map illustrates all planned and accomplished land acquisitions identified for ecosystem restoration regardless of funding source.

The DSL and FNAI collaborated to update the 1999 Everglades Ecosystem Land Acquisition State-Federal Cost Share Map, known as the “Graham Map,” to produce the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update Map.

Data layers depicting acquired conservation lands were compiled by FNAI using data received from many different sources including federal, state, and local managing agencies and private conservation organizations. Lands acquired through June 30, 2006 are depicted on the map. Symbols represent funding splits; in some cases, interest acquired is less-than-fee simple.

Planned acquisitions are also indicated on the map. Project boundaries indicate areas that are desired for acquisition (includes intended less-than-fee acquisitions. Some areas within these boundaries have been acquired; these acquired areas are denoted with the various “Acquired” shadings (see map legend).

The Florida Forever Board of Trustees project data layer represents projects on their acquisition list as of June 30, 2006. Boundaries were digitized by FNAI staff using paper maps provided by the FDEP Office of Environmental Services.

The SFWMD provided digital data for CERP and Save Our Rivers projects with the disclaimer that any information, including but not limited to software and data, received from the SFWMD in fulfillment of a request is provided “AS IS” without warranty, including but not limited to merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For the SFWMD projects, this map is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This map is not self-executing or binding on the SFWMD.

Lands labeled “Acquired – 100% State Funds” and “Acquired – Predominately State Funds” include all lands purchased by either the State of Florida or the SFWMD. For the purpose of this map, the term “predominately” means greater than 50%. Some local funds may have been used as well. County land acquisitions are reflected on this map; however, due to the map scale, many county project boundaries are too small to be shown on the map. For information on local projects, see Appendix E.

The State/Federal Cost Share Table

The DSL produces the companion table listing all the projects that contribute to natural habitat and species protection and the federal/state/local cost share of the projects illustrated on the map.

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Appendix E: County Land Acquisitions and Florida's Greenways and Trails Program

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County Land Acquisitions and Florida's Greenways and Trails Program

This appendix provides information regarding progress made toward two of the strategic objectives for South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Objective 3-A.1: Designate an additional 480,000 acres as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System by 2008.

The FDEP OGT is working to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails, a “green infrastructure” that connects Florida's communities with the nature that surrounds them. To meet this goal, OGT administers the annual \$4.5 million Florida Greenways and Trails Land Acquisition Program under the Florida Forever Act. OGT also provides technical assistance and grants for the development of both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects through the federally funded Recreational Trail Program.

Currently, over 4,000 miles of trails on Florida's public lands provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including hiking, biking, inline skating, horseback riding, paddling, and wildlife viewing. Some trails meander through state and local parks and conservation areas, while others provide convenient access to playgrounds and urban shopping areas. In addition to providing fitness and recreation opportunities, greenways provide a glimpse into natural Florida.

Local counties partner with the state for designation and funding for greenways and trails. The FDEP reports that 298,774 acres plus an additional 147 linear miles of greenways and trails lands in the sixteen-county area are part of the state's system.

Objective 3-A.3: Acquire an additional 2,500 acres of park, recreation, and open space by 2005.

Counties with conservation land acquisition programs have provided a summary of their programs. Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Highlands, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie counties have provided this information. The smaller rural counties of Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee do not have conservation land acquisition programs. Conservation lands in these counties are acquired through the state or the SFWMD. For this edition of the LAS, the LATT collected county-wide information, although parts of Orange, Osceola, Highlands, Polk, and Charlotte counties are outside the boundary of the SFWMD.

The counties were asked to list only those land acquisitions that are titled to the county on a summary table and provide a map illustrating those properties. It is important to note that county conservation land acquisitions can contribute to more than one ecosystem restoration objective. The counties determined which objective a particular land acquisition project addressed and reflected that information on the summary table. For this document, all county land acquisitions were credited towards meeting this objective. Currently, counties hold title to over 138,000 acres of lands that contribute towards the park, recreation, and open space objective.

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Appendix F: SFWMD FY 2006-07 Land Acquisition Priorities

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Appendix F

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SFWMD FY 2006-07 Land Acquisition Priorities¹²

Project	CERP or Master Project Name	Acres	County	Original Fund Source
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Acceler8	1,000	Miami-Dade	CERP-Acceler8 SOETF
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – CERP	8,000	Miami-Dade	SOETF
C-111 Spreader Canal	C-111 Spreader Canal	8,951	Miami-Dade	SOETF
C23/24 Reservoirs	Indian River Lagoon – South	2,851	Martin St. Lucie	SOETF
Lake Okeechobee Watershed	Lake Okeechobee Watershed	26,067	Highlands Okeechobee	SOETF
L-31 North Acquisition Area	C-111 Canal Project	290	Miami-Dade	Florida Forever
Total		47,449		

¹² Subject to available funds

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Appendix G: Potential Funding Sources in Support of Restoration

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Potential Funding Sources in Support of the Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem

Program	Purpose
FEDERAL	
DOI	
Federal land acquisition programs	
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – Federal Land Acquisition	Acquisition for various federal agencies (FWS, NPS, BLM, and USDA Forest Service).
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (FWS)	Receipts in this account allow FWS to acquire important migratory breeding areas, migration resting places, and wintering areas. Areas acquired become part of the refuge system.
Grant programs strictly for land acquisition by non-Federal entities	
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Act Program (FWS)	To provide grants to states for Recovery Land Acquisition. (There is additional funding for Planning Land Acquisition Grants.)
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by non-Federal agencies	
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (FWS)	To help states and tribes to implement comprehensive wildlife conservation plans and activities.
LWCF State Grant Program (NPS)	To provide matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
Sport Fish Restoration – Grants to States (FWS)	To provide funding for fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. Non-competitive apportionment based program.
Federal Aid and Wildlife Restoration – Grants to States	This program apportions funds to states and territories for use in restoring and protecting wildlife.
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by Federal and non-Federal agencies	
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (FWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Sport Fish Restoration --Coastal Wetlands Grants (FWS)	To acquire, restore and enhance wetlands in coastal states (DEP/TNC used this program for a project in Hendry Creek to buffer Estero Bay).
Federal Aid Wetlands Conservation (FWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Other partnership programs supporting non-land acquisition conservation activities	
Private Stewardship Grants Program (FWS)	To provide grants for on-the-ground conservation projects on private lands benefiting federally listed, threatened, endangered species or other at-risk species.
Landowner Incentive Program (FWS)	Establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs that provide technical or financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners to benefit species at risk.
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (FWS)	To provide assistance to landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands, streams, grasslands, woodlands, and other important habitat that support fish and wildlife.

Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP appear in yellow.

DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Coastal Program	To work with coastal communities and other partners to focus and leverage resources on high-priority coastal habitat issues by providing important technical and financial support to our existing and new partners, including the Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem.	
NPS Challenge Cost Share	To increase the participation of neighboring communities and qualified partners in preserving and improving the cultural, natural, and recreational resources for which the Service is responsible.	
FWS Challenge Cost Share	Foster innovative and creative cooperative efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat, with an emphasis on Federal lands and resources.	
BLM Challenge Cost Share	To leverage federal dollars with private and state funding for conservation efforts, benefiting resources on BLM administered public lands. The program solicits partnerships and partnership funding through a variety of resource management programs, including fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and recreation.	
DOT		
National Scenic Byways Program	To provide grants in support of eligible projects, including protection of natural resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.	
Federal Lands Highway Program	To provide funds for eligible projects to include acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.	
High Priority Projects	To support member priority projects.	
Transportation Enhancements	To provide reimbursement for 12 eligible activities that enhance the transportation experience, including acquisition of scenic easements and sites.	
USDA		
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	To remove marginal agricultural lands from production and establish conservation practices to improve water quality and create wildlife habitat.	
Forest Legacy Program	To help states acquire fee or easements for perpetual forest preservation.	
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	To assist landowners in restoring wetlands and wetland functions.	
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FPP)	To purchase easements on farm and ranch lands that will remain in agricultural production.	
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	To encourage the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations on wetland, riparian, upland and aquatic habitat on Ag Lands.	
Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) Section 390	To provide \$200 million to the Secretary of the Interior to conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem in South Florida, including the acquisition of real property.	
NOAA		
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)	To provide matching funds to states to acquire land or easements to protect or restore coastal areas that have considerable conservation, recreation, ecological, or economic value and are threatened by conversion from their natural state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance or restore ecological function.	

Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP appear in yellow.

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

Program	Purpose
STATE	
Florida Forever Program/Board of Trustees (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands, lands to protect water resource development and supply, to increase public access, public lands management and maintenance, and increase protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements. Florida Forever is the umbrella funding source for the state programs listed below.
Florida Forever Program Water Management Districts (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition of lands and capital project expenditures necessary to implement the water management districts' priority lists; \$25 million of the annual Florida Forever allocation to the SFWMD is to be used exclusively for the acquisition of land needed to implement the CERP.
Florida Communities Trust (FCT) (DCA)	To fund the state's land acquisition grant program for local governments and non-profits to acquire lands that promote outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans.
Florida Forever Program Inholdings and Additions Programs (FDEP)	To acquire inholdings and additions to existing conservation lands.
Florida Greenways and Trails (FDEP)	To fund the statewide initiative to create a system of greenways and trails connecting communities and conservation areas.
FL Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation and the acquisition of inholdings and additions for state parks.
Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (FDEP)	To implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).
COUNTIES	
Broward Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program	To protect the remaining natural lands in Broward County not currently managed for preservation.
Conservation Collier	To acquire, preserve, restore and manage environmentally significant lands.
Lee County Conservation Lands Program (Conservation 20/20)	To acquire, restore and manage lands important to wildlife, water supply, flooding, water quality, and resource oriented public uses.
Martin County Lands for Healthy Rivers and Natural Resource Protection (Healthy Rivers) and Lands for You	Healthy Rivers: to acquire lands for river restoration, provide matching funds for state and federal land acquisition programs for conservation and protection of natural resources and provide for municipal infrastructure. Lands for You: to preserve and protect environmental resources and cultural history while providing expanded outdoor recreational opportunities.
Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands	To acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of the present and future generations.
Monroe County Land Authority	To acquire land for recreation, affordable housing, environmental protection, and the protection of private property rights.
Orange County Green PLACE	To preserve conservation and water resource lands.

Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP appear in yellow

DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Program	Purpose	
COUNTIES CONTINUED		
Osceola County S.A.V.E Osceola	To acquire lands to protect open space and water quality, preserve natural areas, protect endangered or threatened animals or plants and provide passive recreation such as trails.	
Palm Beach County Land Acquisition Program for Conservation Purposes	To acquire additional environmentally sensitive lands for perpetual preservation and to acquire agricultural lands to preserve agriculture in the County's Ag Reserve.	
Polk County Environmental Lands Program	To acquire, preserve, manage and restore endangered and environmentally sensitive lands, water resources and important wildlife habit.	
St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands Program	To preserve native ecosystems and meet County Comprehensive Plan open space requirements.	
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS		
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	For the preservation and stewardship of the land and water resources in and around the 60,000-acres Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).	
CREW Trust	For the preservation and stewardship of the land and water resources in and around the 60,000 acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.	
Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust	For the preservation, conservation and the restoration of rare and endangered areas of the Florida Keys.	
Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.	To preserve environmentally valuable or sensitive lands and open space areas in and around the Central Florida Ridge for the benefit of the general public, and to educate the public as to the importance of such lands and their preservation.	
Martin County Regional Land Trust	To preserve land on Florida's highly developed east coast.	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	To award challenge grants that address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend; work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests; leverage available funding; and evaluate project outcomes.	
National Park Foundation	The South Florida National Parks Trust seeks to create a new tradition of philanthropy in support of Biscayne, Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks.	
The Conservation Fund	To forge partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage, American's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open space.	
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	To preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth. TNC works to increase public funding at the local, state and federal level and works with landowners to craft innovative land protection projects.	
Trust for Public Lands (TPL)	To help agencies and communities create a vision for conservation, raise funds for conservation and complete conservation real estate transactions. TPL raises public as well as private funds and packages projects to funders and agencies.	

Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP appear in yellow.

Appendix H: Land Acquisition Strategy Task Team Directive

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Land Acquisition Strategy Task Team Directive

BACKGROUND: Land acquisition is critical to South Florida ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals and to act as a buffer to existing natural areas. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs, and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore natural hydrology. Land acquisition efforts are often complemented by less-than-fee acquisition and other conservation programs that provide permanent and long-term easements such as provided in USDA's Wetland Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Program.

Several planning efforts related to land acquisition have recently been accomplished. In December 1999, an ecosystem-wide acquisition map (the "Graham Map") was developed. In April 2000, The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report entitled, "South Florida Ecosystem Restoration: A Land Acquisition Plan Would Help Identify Lands That Need to Be Acquired." Subsequently, the Task Force strategy document, "Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem," was delivered to Congress. This strategy document provided information on numerous land acquisition projects undertaken for ecosystem restoration. In February 2003, the Task Force accepted the South Florida Ecosystem Land acquisition Strategy prepared by the Land Acquisition Task Team. This Strategy built on the information in "Coordinating Success" and the "Graham Map," updating and adding information as necessary. The Task Force decided to produce an annual update.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Task Team is to develop the annual updates to the land acquisition strategy originally accepted by the Task Force in March 2003. It describes the lands identified jointly by federal and state agencies for ecosystem restoration, and with its appendices, provides a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. The annual updates will report land acquisition data from July 1 through June 30 each year.

MEMBERS:

Lester Baird (Hendry County)	Mark Rosch (Monroe County)
Marsha Bansee (OED)	Alan Shatto (Glades County)
Don Burgess (Broward County)	Gaye Sharpe (Polk County)
David Burr (SWFRPC)	Jim Sherman (Martin County)
Brian Coleman (NPS)	Wanda Caffie-Simpson (SFWMD)
Gary Cochran(FWC)	Andy Stevens (Charlotte County)
Darrell Enfinger (Okeechobee County)	Alexandra Sulecki (Collier County)
Grant Gelhardt (DCA)	Susan Trokey (Ding Darling NWR)
Beth Jackson (Orange County)	Diana Waite (St. Lucie County)
Mark Musaus (Loxahatchee NWR) - Co-Chair	Rich Walesky (Palm Beach County)
Don Nelson (USACE)	Joe Walsh (WRAC/FWC)
Randy Mathews (Osceola County)	Edward Wright (USDA)
Janice McCarthy (Highlands County)	Theresa Woody (OED)
John Outland (FDEP) – Co-Chair	Emilie Young (Miami-Dade County)
Lynda Riley (Lee County)	

GUIDANCE:

1. The strategy will focus on acquisition efforts for lands where there is a federal or joint interest, including:
 - a) an assessment of the lands with both joint state and federal interest needed to accomplish each of the goals of the restoration,
 - b) a description of the purpose for which the lands will be acquired and how they will be managed,
 - c) an estimate of the cost of these lands,
 - d) an estimate of when the lands will be needed for related restoration projects, and
 - e) the agencies responsible for acquiring the lands.
2. The strategy will focus on those federal or joint requirements supportive of the three goals of the Task Force: Goal 1 (Get the Water Right), Goal 2 (Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species), Goal 3 (Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems).
3. The strategy will be limited to those lands that will be acquired with federal funds or as part of a federally cost shared project.
4. The strategy will be updated to reflect changes and additions to the restoration initiative's land acquisition needs.
5. The strategy will not infringe on existing missions, authorities or jurisdictions of the participating agencies.
6. The strategy should include other related state, district, local government, or non-governmental organization land acquisition projects in an appendix as appropriate.

DELIVERABLES:

The team shall produce the following interim and final deliverables for review and approval of the Working Group:

1. Revised Land Acquisition Task Team Directive for Working Group endorsement (April 2005)
2. First draft for draft for Working Group review (May 2005)
3. Public Comment workshop (August 2005)
4. Second draft for Working group and Task Force review and comment (August 2005)
5. Second draft for Working Group and Task Force review (September 2005)
6. Task Force approval of Land Acquisition Strategy (September 2005)

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All team meetings will be open to the public, and if appropriate, time will be included in the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Pilot Public Affairs Procedures developed by the Working Group.
2. The representative from the OED will serve as the Public Affairs representative for the team and will be responsible for providing public notice of meetings, facilitating public comment, and providing a brief meeting summary for each meeting that is suitable for publication on the Task Force Web Site.
3. The OED will provide contract staff support, as needed, to assist the team in drafting and producing its proposed plan.